

CYPHASPIS BURMEISTER, 1843 (TRILOBITA): PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF TYPE SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY
POWERS. Z.N.(S.)2257

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Burmeister, 1843, *Organisation u. Uebersicht Trilobiten*, p. 103, erected *Cyphaspis* for specimens he wrongly identified with *Calymene clavifrons* Dalman, 1827, *Om palaeaderna*, p. 260. Burmeister stated that this species was the only one he could definitely assign to the genus and under the provisions of Art. 70 *Calymene clavifrons* Dalman, 1827 would be the type species of *Cyphaspis* by monotypy. Since Burmeister misidentified that species, under Art. 70a the case is referred to the Commission for a solution.

2. Burmeister, 1846, *Organisation of trilobites*, p. 99, realised that he had been wrong in assigning his material to Dalman's species and correctly identified his specimens with *Phacops ceratophthalmus* Goldfuss, 1843, *Neues Jb. Miner. Geol. Paläont.*, p. 564.

3. Angelin, 1854, *Palaeontologica Scandinavica*, p. 32, erected *Cyrtometopus* with *Calymene clavifrons* Dalman as type by monotypy. Were the Commission to rule that *C. clavifrons* Dalman is the type species of *Cyphaspis*, *Cyrtometopus* would be a junior synonym. *Cyrtometopus* is a well-established genus of the CHEIRURIDAE. If the proposals introduced here are supported, the genus can continue to be used in its accepted sense.

4. Richter & Richter, 1926, *Abh. preuss. geol. Landesanst.*, vol. 99, p. 95, attributed *Cyphaspis* to Barrande, 1846, *Notice préliminaire* with *C. burmeisteri* Barrande, 1846, *Notice préliminaire*, p. 59, as type species. They rightly indicated that *C. burmeisteri* is conspecific with *Otarion diffractum* Zenker, 1833, *Naturgeschichte der Urwelt*, p. 44, type species by monotypy of *Otarion* (Opinion 88) (1925, *Smithson. misc. Collns*, vol. 73, p. 23-26; Direction 67, *Ops. Decls. Int. Comm. zool. Nom.*, vol. 1E, pp. 111-128, 1957). The Richters consequently considered *Cyphaspis* to be a junior subjective synonym of *Otarion* Zenker, 1833.

5. Prantl & Přibyl, 1951, *Stát. geol. Úst. Česk. Rep.*, vol. 17, p. 444-445, correctly indicated that Burmeister, 1843, was the author of *Cyphaspis* and that he erected the genus for specimens belonging to *Phacops ceratophthalmus* Goldfuss. Prantl & Přibyl

regarded *C. ceratophthalmus* and *O. diffractum* as congeneric and consequently considered *Cyphaspis* to be a junior subjective synonym of *Otarion*.

6. Thomas & Owens, 1978, *Palaeontology*, vol. 21, pp. 70-71, examined topotype material of *C. ceratophthalmus* and *O. diffractum* and listed characters which they believed justified separation at the generic level. Thomas & Owens incorrectly regarded *C. ceratophthalmus* as the type species of *Cyphaspis* by subsequent designation of Burmeister, 1846.

7. It is in the interests of nomenclatural stability and uniformity to regard *C. ceratophthalmus* as the type species of *Cyphaspis*. Such usage preserves Burmeister's original concept of the genus and the view later workers have had of it; the stability of *Cyrtometopus* is also ensured. The nomenclatural confusion surrounding *Cyphaspis* has arisen partly because of Burmeister's original misidentification of the type species and partly because of the Richters' incorrect attribution of the genus to Barrande.

8. The Commission is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type species hitherto made for *Cyphaspis* Burmeister, 1843, and, having done so, to designate *Phacops ceratophthalmus* Goldfuss, 1843 as the type species of that genus;
- (2) to place the generic name *Cyphaspis* Burmeister, 1843 (gender: feminine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Phacops ceratophthalmus* Goldfuss, 1843, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *ceratophthalmus* Goldfuss, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phacops ceratophthalmus* (specific name of type species of *Cyphaspis* Burmeister, 1843) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) to place the generic name *Cyrtometopus* Angelin, 1854 (gender: masculine), type species, by monotypy, *Calymene clavifrons* Dalman, 1827, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (5) to place the specific name *clavifrons* Dalman, 1827, as published in the binomen *Calymene clavifrons* (specific name of type species of *Cyrtometopus* Angelin, 1854), on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.